

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 0056

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XG, IT

SUBJ: PREPARATIONS FOR CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES

1. DURING JANUARY 2 CONVERSATION, ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) FOREIGN SECTION CHIEF SERGIO SEGRE SAID THAT THE RECENT BERLIN MEETING OF THE DRAFTING GROUP PREPARING A FINAL DOCUMENT FOR THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES (CECP) HAD GONE FAR BETTER THAN WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED CONSIDERING THE IMPASSE WHICH HAD BEEN REACHED DURING THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE MEETING IN NOVEMBER. SEGRE SAID THAT ALL PARTY DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING THE YUGOSLAV AND HIS OWN, HAD COME AWAY FROM BERLIN SATISFIED WITH THE PROGRESS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE.

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2. ACCORDING TO SEGRE, INDICATION THAT PROGRESS WOULD BE MADE CAME FROM HIS CONVERSATIONS IN MID-DECEMBER IN ROME WITH VADIM ZAGLADIN, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE SOVIET PARTY'S INTERNATIONAL SECTION. DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS, HELD JUST PRIOR TO THE BERLIN GET-TOGETHER, ZAGLADIN INDICATED SOVIET ACCEPTANCE OF VIRTUALLY ALL THE PCI SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO GET THE BALL ROLLING AGAIN. AT THE BERLIN MEETING, THE SOVIET DELEGATION, LED BY ZAGLADIN, LIVED UP TO THE COMMITMENTS WHICH HAD BEEN MADE IN ROME, SEGRE BELIEVES THAT THE LATEST SOVIET BEHAVIOR INDICATES THAT THE CPSU HAS RESOLVED ITS INTERNAL DEBATE ON THIS SUBJECT. FURTHERMORE, SEGRE TAKES THESE COMMITMENTS, MADE OVER A DOCUMENT WHICH WILL BE FINALIZED ONLY AFTER THE CPSU CONGRESS, AS AN INDICATION THAT BREZHNEV AND HIS POLICIES WILL BE ENDORSED AT THE CONGRESS.

3. JUDGING FROM WHAT SEGRE SAID, THE DRAFTING GROUP HAS SUCCEEDED IN PREPARING THE PREAMBULATORY PORTION OF THE DOCUMENT. IN HIS WORDS, THE GROUP REACHED AGREEMENT ON THE "FIRST TWO OR THREE PAGES OF A DOCUMENT WHICH WILL RUN TO APPROXIMATELY 20 PAGES." THE DRAFTING GROUP IS NOW SCHEDULED TO RECONVENE IN BERLIN ABOUT JANUARY 13 WITH THE VARIOUS DELEGATIONS COMMITTED TO STAYING THERE UNTIL THE FINAL DOCUMENT IS DRAFTED UNLESS THIS DRAGS ON TOO LONG. AT THE PACE AT WHICH PROGRESS WAS MADE IN DECEMBER AND GIVEN THE LARGE NUMBER (23) OF DELEGATIONS PARTICIPATING IN THE CURRENT PHASE OF THE WORK, SEGRE ESTIMATES THAT IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST 10 TO 15 DAYS OF WORK IN BERLIN TO COMPLETE THE DOCUMENT.

4. THE ALREADY AGREED PORTION OF THE DOCUMENT REPORTEDLY RECOGNIZES THE COMPLETE AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE OF EACH INDIVIDUAL PARTY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A GROUP OF PARTIES SHARING CERTAIN BASIS IDEOLOGICAL INTERESTS. IT ALSO TAKES AS ITS POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN STATES THE PRINCIPLES AGREED TO IN THE FINAL HELSINKI DOCUMENT.

5. BASED ON THE CURRENT RATE OF PROGRESS, SEGRE BELIEVES THAT CEPC COULD ONLY BE HELD IN MAY OR JUNE AT THE EARLIEST. IN TERMS OF THE LEVEL OF REPRESENTATION AT THE FINAL CONFERENCE, THE OBJECTIVE REMAINS, HE SAID, TO HAVE DELEGATIONS LED BY THE HEAD OF EACH INDIVIDUAL PARTY.

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6. PARTIES NOT PRESENT AT THE LATEST BERLIN MEETING WERE THOSE FROM NORWAY, GREAT BRITAIN, SAN MARINO, LUXEMBOURG, AND IRELAND. VOLPE

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